

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 were pending in the application. Claims 1 and 5 have been amended. No claims have been canceled. Claim 10 has been added. Therefore, claims 1-10 are now pending and reconsideration of the application is requested for at least the reasons that follow.

Specification

The specification is objected for a minor informality. Paragraph number [0033] has been amended where appropriate and, therefore, withdrawal and reconsideration of the objection are respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. 102 Rejections**Claims 1-6 and 9: Bell**

Claims 1-6 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by GB 2328244 (“Bell”). Independent claims 1 and 5 have been amended. The rejection of claims 1 and 5 should be withdrawn at least because Bell does not disclose, teach or suggest each and every element of the claims.

Bell does not disclose, teach or suggest a pretensioner that “includes a connector portion, the connector portion including a pulley configured for a wire to pass over,” as recited in claims 1 and 5. The Office Action contends that the buckle of Bell is a connector portion. *See* Office Action at p. 2, ¶ 4. However, Bell does not disclose a pulley or a wire passing over a pulley and, therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 5 are respectfully requested.

Claims 2-4 depend from claim 1 and claims 6 and 9 depend from claim 5 and, thus, are allowable therewith, for at least the reasons set forth above, without regard to the further patentable subject matter set forth in these dependent claims.

Claims 1 and 2: Denis

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,409,217 (“Denis”). The rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn at least because Denis does not disclose, teach or suggest each and every element of the claim.

Denis does not disclose, teach or suggest that “when the pretensioner generates gas in event of an emergency, the wire is configured to pull the connector portion in a direction towards a bracket,” as recited in claims 1 and 5. Denis discloses a pulley 50, but does not disclose a “wire” as stated in the claims. Further, Denis does not disclose a wire pulling the connector portion. The Office Action states that spool 55 corresponds to a “connector portion.” However, during an event of an accident, the spool 55 is not *pulled* by a wire “in a direction towards a bracket.” Rather, the rotation of the pulley 55 causes the spool to be *rotated*. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claim 2 depends from claim 1 and is allowable therewith, for at least the reasons set forth above, without regard to the further patentable subject matter set forth in this dependent claim.

35 U.S.C. 103 Rejection

Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,179,330 (“Wier”) in view of Denis and Bell. The rejection should be withdrawn, because the references, taken together or separately, fail to teach or suggest the claimed invention.

None of the references disclose, teach or suggest “when the pretensioner generates gas in event of an emergency, the wire is configured to pull the connector portion in a direction towards a bracket,” as called for in independent claims 1 and 5. Wier merely discloses a restraint system with an end fitting 4 and an end fitting tensioner 31. However, Wier clearly does not disclose a “wire,” or the wire pulling “the connector portion in a direction towards a bracket.” *See* Wier at Figs. 1 and 2. As discussed above, Denis and Bell do not disclose, teach or suggest the elements of the claimed invention and, therefore, do not cure the deficiencies of Wier. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 5 are respectfully requested.

Claims 2-4 depend from claim 1 and claims 6-9 depend from claim 5 and, therefore, are allowable therewith, for at least the reasons set forth above, without regard to the further patentable subject matter set forth in these dependent claims.

Claim 10

New claim 10 calls for, among other things, "an inner cover with one end attached to the connector portion and an opposite end attached to a wire holder." The references, taken together or separately, fail to disclose, teach or suggest the elements of claim 10 and therefore, claim 10 is respectfully submitted to be in condition for allowance.

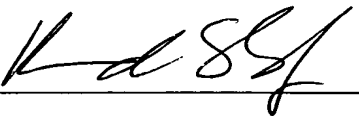
Conclusion

Favorable reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 1/23/06

By 

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